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1966

VICTORIA

FORTY-FOURTH REPORT

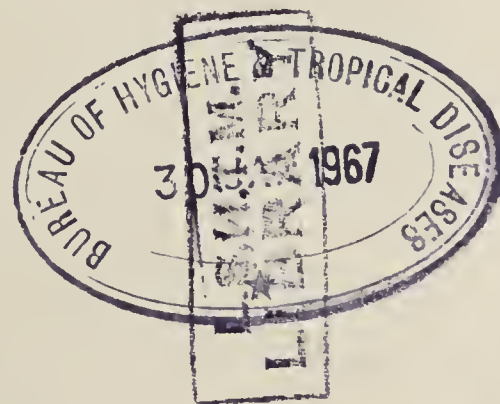
OF THE

COMMISSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1966

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 23 (3)
OF THE HEALTH ACT 1958.



By Authority:

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COMMISSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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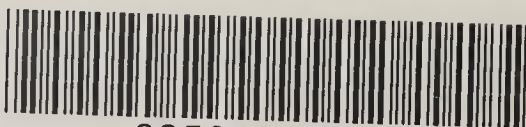
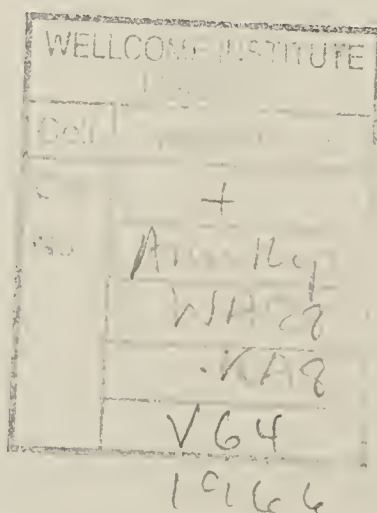
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FORTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH 1965-66

To the Honorable Vance Oakley Dickie, M.L.C.

SIR,

We have the honour to submit, in accordance with Section 23 (3) of the *Health Act* 1958, our report for the year ended 30th June, 1966.

The health of the people of Victoria continues at a high level. In the matter of infectious disease, there have been no cases of poliomyelitis in the last year as was also the case in the previous year. Diphtheria is at an all time low and this is also the case with other infections. There has been no outbreak—local or general—during the year although viral infections still exist.

In reviewing the activities of the Commission over the year it is desired to again direct attention to the statement contained in the report for the year 1963-64 of the increasing demands for “higher standards required in a highly industrialized community”, which are throwing an ever increasing responsibility on the General Health Branch of the Department of Health—the administrative instrument of the Commission. The development and expansion of industry raises problems requiring expert assessment for effective control, not only to safeguard the health of persons directly engaged in industry, but also to protect the public health. One particular problem in this field is the development of the use of irradiating apparatus and radio isotopes in industry. The methods of safety adopted in their use to eliminate possible hazards to human health are carefully examined by the Industrial Hygiene Division. In assessing the public health aspects involved the Commission is indeed fortunate to have as its expert advisers on this subject highly qualified and expert scientists. At the same time there remain other complex activities associated with the Branch, including engineering, epidemiological studies, food control, proprietary medicines, control of industrial and domestic poisons and the health hazards associated with poisonous residues from pesticides. The Commission has noted that one of the conclusions drawn by the Committee of Enquiry into the Effects of Pesticides set up by the Honorable the Premier is that the use of such pesticides in Victoria does not appear to present any immediate danger to public health. There can be no doubt that the formation of the Inter-departmental Committee on Toxic Pesticides as set up by the Department of Health some years ago on the recommendation of the National Health and Medical Research Council has contributed in no small measure to the generally satisfactory position which obtains in this State at the present time in regard to the use of pesticides.

This however does not mean that pesticides can be used indiscriminately and the Commission will continue to exercise its statutory responsibilities to ensure that the present position is maintained.

As well as these responsibilities there is a continuing increase in the community welfare services subsidized from schemes operated by the General Health Branch. The vast expansion of part-time assistance in the home has enabled many persons to remain domiciled in their own home, thus obviating institutional care. The development of this service alone is shown by the increase in the expenditure from \$56,814 (£28,407) in the financial year 1953-54 to \$633,965 in the financial year 1965-66. Similarly, subsidized municipal clubs for the elderly providing recreational and social activities continue to develop. During the last financial year eight new clubs were opened making the total of 109 throughout the State. Subsidies paid by the Branch towards the maintenance of these clubs increased by \$13,425 during the last financial year.

Some of these matters are dealt with in detail in the report which follows.

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

Since the introduction of Salk vaccine in 1956 this antigen has been used exclusively in poliomyelitis immunization campaigns in Victoria. The vaccine has been considered highly effective in controlling poliomyelitis and has resulted in the present satisfactory position where no case of

poliomyelitis has been reported in this State since March, 1964. Following recommendations by the Commonwealth Department of Health, the National Health and Medical Research Council at a meeting in May, 1966, resolved as follows :—

“ Having studied all the evidence put before it the Council considers that Sabin vaccine is as safe and effective as Salk and may be used in poliomyelitis immunization campaigns in Australia.”

At the direction of the Victorian Minister of Health the resolution of the National Health and Medical Research Council was referred to the Victorian Consultative Council on Poliomyelitis, a council appointed under the Health Act to advise the Minister on all matters relating to the prevention and after care of poliomyelitis in Victoria. The council report which was endorsed by the Commission, reads as follows :—

“ After considering the resolution of the National Health and Medical Research Council that Sabin Vaccine be used in poliomyelitis immunization campaigns in Australia the Consultative Council re-affirms its previously expressed view, that in the light of present day knowledge, Salk vaccine is the vaccine of choice for use in Victorian immunization campaigns. The use of Salk vaccine in Victoria has been highly efficient in controlling poliomyelitis and has resulted in the present satisfactory position where no case has been notified since March, 1964. In view of this excellent result, the Council considers that from the point of view of suitability of vaccines, there is no reason to change to Sabin vaccine.

However, the success of Salk immunization campaigns depends entirely upon a continuous and adequate supply of vaccine which has passed all potency and safety standards. If these requirements cannot be maintained, the Council would have no alternative but to recommend a change to Sabin Vaccine, which theoretically, cannot be regarded as safe as Salk vaccine.

In reviewing the present unsatisfactory situation in regard to Victorian immunization campaigns brought about by the failure of the Commonwealth to maintain adequate supplies of either locally produced or imported Salk vaccine, the Council desires to express its concern at what can only be regarded as a very unsatisfactory state of affairs where Victoria is compelled to rely on biological products from overseas for use in immunization campaigns. The Council considers that any vaccine used in Victorian poliomyelitis immunization campaigns should be produced in Australia.”

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES REPORT.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.—New cases of tuberculosis notified for the year were 790, a rate of 24·5 per 100,000 compared with 820 during 1964. There were 15 per cent. (116 cases) with extra-pulmonary tuberculosis ; 72 per cent. of the pulmonary cases and 64 per cent. of the extra-pulmonary cases were proven bacteriologically ; in all forms 71 per cent. were bacteriologically established.

Seventy-three per cent. of all new cases were over 35 years and for pulmonary cases 58 per cent. were males over 35 years and 40 per cent. were males over 50 years of age. For extra-pulmonary tuberculosis cases sex distribution was practically equal. Tuberculosis in children remains relatively high compared with other States. There were 62 cases (7·8 per cent.) total notifications compared with 83 in 1964 (10·1 per cent.) ; 116 (13 per cent.) in 1963.

Migrants who represent 19 per cent. of the Victorian community contributed 240 new cases (30 per cent.) of the total notifications—85 British, 155 non-British. 36 migrants were diagnosed within 1 year of their arrival and 52 within 5 years. The notification of extra-pulmonary tuberculosis was higher than in the Australian born.

There were 25 new cases of tuberculosis of the lymph glands, most common in children and a number of these have been shown to be caused by a typical type mycobacteria. Tuberculosis of the renal and genital organs remains fairly common—57 cases being notified, an almost constant figure for the past 3 years. There were 15 cases of bone and joint tuberculosis and 8 cases of tuberculosis meningitis 3 of which occurred amongst children, 1 adolescent and 4 adults. One case of bovine tuberculosis was reported during 1965. This is the only bovine type isolation since 1951. The patient was a ship steward from Scotland.

Source of Notification.—Mass X-ray surveys have proven particularly rewarding as a source case finding. Forty-eight per cent. of the pulmonary cases of tuberculosis notified have been discovered through Mass X-ray surveys. Private practitioners and general hospitals each contribute about 20 per cent. of the notifications. There were eight notifications by death certificates.

Re-activation.—Re-activated tuberculosis was reported in 84 people, previously notified, after having had inactive lesions for three years or longer—69 pulmonary and 15 non-pulmonary cases. Eighty-five per cent. of these were bacteriologically confirmed at the relapse.

The period of stability since last treatment in 52 people (62 per cent.) was over ten years which emphasizes that once a person has been known to have tuberculosis, medical supervision is advisable for the remainder of his life. Only 13 of these cases previously had “adequate” chemotherapy, 43 per cent. had “inadequate” chemotherapy, and 42 per cent. had no previous chemotherapy.

Case Register.—At present the case register has listed 3,499 patients of whom 3,098 have pulmonary tuberculosis, 401 extra-pulmonary tuberculosis.

An innovation introduced during the year was quarterly visits to the tuberculosis laboratories at Fairfield Hospital and the Repatriation Department. These proved most profitable and have facilitated the notification of some bacteriologically proven cases of tuberculosis.

Chronic Positive Cases.—A record is maintained for patients who are known to have had active disease for twelve months or longer. At the 31st December, 1965, there were 66 “chronic positive” cases.

Deaths.—The official figure supplied by the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics for Deaths is 108—a rate of 3·29 deaths per 100,000. However, on analysis it is found that there were only 35 persons who had active tuberculosis at the time of death. Most of the people had inactive tuberculosis and died of non-tuberculosis conditions. The average age at death was 66·2 years. There were no deaths recorded under 30 years.

Tuberculin Testing and B.C.G. Vaccination.—B.C.G. vaccinations of all school children of eleven years and over have been continued resulting in 78,945 examinations. The natural positive reactor rate at fourteen years was 4·1 per cent. For Victorian National Service trainees aged twenty years, 983 personnel were examined and the natural tuberculin reactor rate was 9·7 per cent.

During the year an “all age” tuberculin survey was carried out in the City of Hawthorn. A similar survey was carried out in 1957. A comparison shows a fall in the rate of natural tuberculin reactors from 6 per cent. to 3·2 per cent., despite an increase of more than 600 pupils in older age groups attending school in 1965.

Mass Surveys.—During 1965 the first compulsory survey continued and 21 electoral areas were visited. A total of 596,994 persons were examined. This exceeds the average number annually X-rayed under the voluntary system by between 150,000 and 200,000. Despite this huge increase, the Division of Chest X-ray Surveys was able to carry out this load of work efficiently and without increase in personnel.

Attendances continue to be very satisfactory and after roll checking and initial follow-up, it was found 97 per cent. of the people had been X-rayed within one year. “Compulsion” has seemed to bring for X-ray many people in the older age groups who apparently would not have attended previously. It appears that the public as a whole accepts compulsory surveys and there is no doubt that the work is of immense value.

Number of Abnormalities.							Persons.	Rate per 1,000.
Proved or possibly active tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	288	·48
Healed or Inactive Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,107	3·53
Non-T.B. Abnormalities	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,829	4·73
Includes—Pulmonary Carcinoma	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	..
Sarcoidosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	..

The finding of 288 cases of active or possibly active new cases—205 were males and 83 were females—implies the finding of a new case for each 2,073 people X-rayed and with the benefit of earlier treatment a great value to the community.

In the age group under 50 years, this rate was 1 : 3,058.

In the age group 50 years and over, this rate was 1 : 1,456.

Similarly, for apparently inactive tuberculosis, the rates were :—

All ages 1 : 283

15–49 1 : 528

50 years and over .. 1 : 175.

Bacteriology.—The bacteriological control of tuberculosis is certainly of equal importance to the X-ray control—from a public health aspect more important. It is not uncommon for a person to show a stable X-ray appearance for many years but nevertheless be excreting tuberculosis organisms and so creating a risk of infection to others. The bacteriology department is continuing to provide an excellent service in this field and during the year carried out :—

16,880 direct smear examinations ;
18,666 cultural examinations ;
3,166 sensitivity tests ; and
322 animal inoculations for tuberculosis.

Primary resistance was reported in 11 cases from 483 apparently new cases from whom tuberculosis organisms were isolated during the year. There were 8 to streptomycin, 3 to isoniazid and 2 to P.A.S. This includes one patient who was resistant to all three drugs.

Of the 11 primary resistant cases many of the original infections may have occurred outside Australia. Five patients were born outside Australia and 1 was Australian born but had spent some years in South America immediately prior to developing the disease.

Resistance after chemotherapy was shown in 72 patients. Of these 52 were listed as “Chronic positive”, 17 were “breakdowns”, 1 a primary resistant case carried over from 1964, and the remaining 2 developed resistance during the year.

Anonymous Acid-Fast bacilli.—There were six isolations considered to be significant. A Battey-like type from a patient with advanced pulmonary lesions ; a photochromogen probably *myco-balnei* from skinscrapings and biopsy tissue of a granulomatous lesion of the knee ; and four scotochromogens isolated from lymph glands from children.

Treatment.—It is still the policy to recommend initial treatment in sanatoria or allied institutions for all patients with active tuberculosis and of the 790 new cases notified during the year 91·5 per cent. had such treatment.

The response to treatment remains very satisfactory with a conversion rate of 98 per cent. prior to discharge. In a series of 95 consecutive admissions of bacteriologically proven tuberculosis, there were 47 cases with minimal disease, 29 with moderately advanced disease, 19 far advanced disease. In the “minimal” group, “negative” results were achieved at an average of two months and the longest time 4 months ; in the “moderate” group the average time was 3 months and the longest 5 months. In the “advanced” group the average time was 3½ months and the longest 6 months. In all 54 per cent. were negative in 8 weeks, 39 per cent. were negative in 16 weeks and 7 per cent. required a longer period than 16 weeks.

Annual reviews of consecutive admissions of male patients to Gresswell Sanatorium show similar results from the “minimal” and “moderate” stage patients, but in the “advanced” group about 5–10 per cent. of the patients may take up to 8–12 months to convert.

Toxic reactions to the standard first line drugs appear to produce moderately severe reactions in approximately 15 per cent. of all patients in Sanatoria, but in the majority desensitization using steroid cover has been practicable. Samplings of the records show that possibly 50 per cent. of the patients have some difficulties in tolerating anti-tuberculosis chemotherapy during the course of treatment. It is in these groups and those who are unco-operative that treatment failures and relapses occur more frequently.

Surgical treatment was used for 22 patients and of these in 8 patients it was an operation for diagnostic purposes. There were 20 resections, a decortication and a re-opening of a sinus.

Tuberculosis Allowances.—At December 31st, 1965, there were 292 people receiving the allowance. Seventy-nine per cent. were in receipt for less than 1 year, 10 per cent. between 1 and 2 years and 11 per cent. over 2 years.

Summary.—The cost of anti-tuberculosis activities is still high. However, on the credit side, there is a vast decrease in the invalidity and early death of those infected. Patients return to their work and continue active in the community.

Preventive measures cannot yet be relaxed. Also in the sphere of treatment of the disease the improvement has been further improved so that the stay in hospital and other institutions is lessening and patients resume work and active life much earlier than formerly.

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS—VICTORIA, 1965

Year.	Notification of New Cases.		Deaths.		Tuberculosis Allowances paid at 31st December.	Mass X-ray Surveys.		School Tuberculin Survey. (11 years and over).		No. of beds available at Sanatoria and Chalets.	Average stay in Sanatoria (days).
	Number.	Rate per 100,000.	Number.	Rate per 100,000.		Number X-rayed.	Possibly Active Tuberculosis.	No. Mantoux Tested (1 : 1,000 O.T.).	% +ve reactors at age 14.		
1948	677	32·37	641	30·65	1,368 (State Scheme)	150,000	..	..	..	735	252
1951	1,030	44·20	407	17·88	2,039	277,938	767	20,524	18·0	1,134	326
1952	1,013	43·22	346	14·76	1,582	408,311	1,384	19,309	9·7	1,017	338
1954	1,046	46·59	245	9·99	1,453	463,210	621	17,869	10·3	1,172	285
1955	974	38·55	222	8·79	1,302	408,648	540	23,533	9·5	996	233
1956	885	33·98	194	7·37	1,121	388,765	413	20,946	6·8	1,050	164
1957	813	30·40	145	5·37	793	437,796	194	29,161	8·1	782	144
1958	776	28·32	145	5·23	582	413,932	184	44,269	7·4	744	140
1959	862	30·32	153	5·38	496	416,721	213	39,297	5·9	744	135
1960	863	29·50	138	4·70	444	380,598	194	40,400	6·9	744	141
1961	698	23·32	127	4·35	406	405,913	190	47,145	4·7	744	155
1962	781	25·65	101	3·35	411	456,555	185	47,338	3·9	744	160
1963	888	28·80	109	3·55	390	478,861	255	48,680	3·3	744	165
1964	820	25·93	121	3·84	290	428,306	286	75,897	4·1	729	138
1965	790	24·50	106	3·29	292	596,994	288	78,945	4·1	715	139

POLIOMYELITIS.

Incidence.

Once again it can be reported that there were no confirmed cases of poliomyelitis during the past twelve months. The last case occurred on the 30th March, 1964.

Four suspected cases were reported and referred to the Poliomyelitis Surveillance Sub-Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council and in each case the committee decided there was insufficient evidence to confirm a diagnosis of poliomyelitis.

Salk Vaccine.

Supplies of Salk vaccine were unfortunately disrupted again this year. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining supplies from overseas sources and it was not until June, 1966, that sufficient vaccine from the United Kingdom and Canada was available to meet municipalities' orders in full. At the end of June, the State had enough vaccine on hand to meet normal requirements to the end of August, but it was expected that before then more would be obtained from the Commonwealth.

Seasonal fluctuations in demand are evident, being particularly influenced by school terms, but the average weekly distribution is around 8,000 doses. This represents a fall in consumption compared with last year when the weekly consumption was between 10,000 and 15,000 doses. This fall would in part be due to the completion of the bulk of fourth injections but it is probable too that interruptions in supply have resulted in many not being immunized or not completing a full course of injections.

Municipalities submitted returns of the number of persons who received Salk vaccine during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1965. Details are summarized as follows :—

During the Period from 1st July, 1964 to 30th June, 1965.

Age Group.							Number Commenced Course.	Number Completed Three Injections.	Number Received Fourth Injections.
<i>Metropolitan Area.</i>									
0-14 years .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45,579	39,009	48,122
15 years and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,560	14,810	22,780
Total .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,139	53,819	70,902
<i>Rest of State.</i>									
0-14 years .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,576	20,579	23,502
15 years and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,724	4,981	12,763
Total .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,300	25,560	36,265
<i>Whole of State.</i>									
0-14 years .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70,155	59,588	71,624
15 years and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,284	19,791	35,543
Total .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97,439	79,379	107,167

The total number of doses distributed for the year was 377,678 doses, compared with 602,469 doses during 1964–65. The number of doses distributed since the inception of Salk vaccine in Victoria in mid-1956 reached 7,320,000.

Percentage Immunized.

The following table shows the percentage of the population as at 30th June each year since Salk vaccine was introduced, who have completed a course of three or more Salk vaccine injections.

Age Group.	Percentage Immunized (at least 3 Salk) as at 30th June—						
	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
15 months to 4 years ..	70	79	70	67	68	69	71
5 years to 14 years ..	69	74	77	78	80	82	78
15 years to 44 years ..	6	22	28	35	38	42	46

Percentage of eligible population immunized with three or more Salk vaccine injections, 57 per cent.

AFTER-CARE OF PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM POLIOMYELITIS AND *ALLIED DISEASES.

The number of patients under active treatment stands at 1,873. This is 73 less than the total for the previous year, despite the regular referral of new patients. However, as the result of a recent review of patients under treatment, a number who had required very little attention in recent years were “discharged” and asked to contact the Poliomyelitis Division if any problem arose in the future.

The principal disease groups and the number of patients being treated in each group are as follows :—

Poliomyelitis	756
Postural Deformities	554
Multiple Sclerosis	162
Other Neurological conditions	160
Cerebral Palsy	85
Polyneuritis	34
Congenital Deformities	47
Muscular Dystrophy	26
Various	49
Total	1,873

Fifty-three clinics were held at country centres at which 1,959 consultations were held while more than 2,000 consultations were held at 150 metropolitan clinics.

Admissions to the Lady Dugan Home totalled 327 and there were 1,253 out-patient treatments.

Regular out-patient clinics were held at the Physiotherapy Section of Ward 9 at Fairfield Hospital and the Division’s medical officers visited there each week for the purpose of reviewing patients and attending those referred by the hospital.

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS.

The notified figures of infective (infectious) hepatitis for 1965 were 2,001 reflecting a decline in incidence since 1963 when 3,833 cases were recorded.

* NOTE.—The expression “allied disease” means a disability involving the neuro-muscular systems—but not implying any association in etiology.

In 1952 this disease became notifiable in Victoria ; since that time two epidemic peaks have occurred, the first in 1955 (3,776 notifications) and again in 1963. Notwithstanding the present decline hepatitis is still a very prevalent disease responsible for considerable loss of time from the patients' occupations and not infrequently leading to chronic ill health and on occasions, death.

It is anticipated that the present decline in cases will continue until a sufficient number of susceptible persons create a reservoir for a further epidemic peak.

The earlier promise of a prophylactic vaccine has not been fulfilled to date largely due to the technical difficulty of isolating the causal virus. It is of interest to record that in an era when the majority of viral agents responsible for communicable diseases have been propagated in the laboratory, hepatitis stands out as a challenge to virologists.

RESPIRATORY VIRUS INFECTIONS.

There were no unusual features among the variety of respiratory virus infections occurring mainly in the winter of 1965.

Influenza B virus was isolated from a number of patients in Fairfield Hospital. However, it was not considered that the outbreak of influenza had reached serious epidemic proportions based on hospitalization of pneumonia patients.

In the autumn of 1966, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), para-influenza and to a lesser extent adeno viruses accounted for a number of hospital admissions particularly affecting infants and young children.

DIPHTHERIA.

Since the outbreak in 1963 when 181 notifications (including both clinical cases and carriers) were recorded, diphtheria incidence has fallen to 27 which was the level in 1962 prior to the 1963 episode.

There is little doubt that the present situation is a reflection of artificial immunization which received a marked stimulus following the 1963 outbreak. This was a salutary lesson that neglect of this effective form of prophylaxis can be followed by an upsurge of this disease.

TETANUS.

Eleven cases of tetanus were notified of which six occurred in the metropolitan area.

The majority were not immunized ; a very small number had a previous history usually somewhat vague. It is unusual to see a breakthrough of this disease in a fully immunized person provided the course of inoculations or booster doses were administered in recent years.

A variety of injuries and circumstances accounted for the initial trauma allowing infection of the wound with this organism in soil, manure, &c. Only one person suffered from the classical injury of standing on a rusty nail ; the majority had minor injuries for example from splinters and thorns while gardening, often too trivial in nature to cause the patient to seek medical attention. One unusual set of circumstances was the occurrence of tetanus following tooth extraction.

During the year the Commission reiterated the warning to the public that persons whose occupations or recreations carry a risk of soil contaminated wounds should seek protection by means of prophylactic tetanus toxoid inoculations.

REDFIN FISH FOOD POISONING.

Two episodes of food poisoning following consumption of redfin fish came to notice early in 1966. A family of five persons from a Melbourne suburb were the victims—the source of the redfin was traced to the Lake Victoria–Rufus river area of south-western New South Wales. The other incident occurred at the Rufus river where a tourist caught and ate the fish.

The Commission has sought the assistance of the New South Wales Fisheries and Game Department in an effort to elucidate the cause of this mysterious illness which has accounted for over 150 known cases of food poisoning. In all cases the incriminated fish were caught only in the locality referred to above.

Q. FEVER.

An outbreak of this disease occurred in Melbourne abattoir workers during 1964. The infection was probably acquired from sheep which had been transported from the Dubbo district, New South Wales.

Since that time a few sporadic cases have been recorded mainly through the vigilance of doctors at the Trade Union Clinic, Footscray. This disease is difficult to diagnose on clinical grounds and recourse to blood tests is usually necessary before making a definite diagnosis. There is little doubt that several Q. fever cases are labelled as influenza on account of the similarity of the clinical picture.

WHOOPING COUGH.

The prevalence of this disease referred to in the last Report has increased over the past year. Notifications rose from 663 in that year to 761 in 1965.

IMMUNIZATION.

Inoculations and vaccinations provided by direction of the Commission have been continued during the year.

The impression is that an adequate cover is achieved at the infant and pre-school level supplemented to an indefinite extent by general practitioners. There is not the same reassurance concerning boost or refresher inoculations at school age.

As usual vaccination against smallpox is not considered by parents or for that matter doctors as being essential at present except for persons likely to be at risk.

Protection against poliomyelitis has been impeded by intermittent supplies of Salk vaccine. This has no doubt been responsible for current consideration on the use of the Sabin oral vaccine as a permanent alternative or substitute.

The recording of individual inoculation histories has not been solved. However, the Personal Medical Detail card issued by the Commission provides for records of immunization against tetanus. The value of such information would be inestimable in the event of injury. It is to be hoped that the innovation will be acceptable to the general public.

As a corollary to the above it is of importance to ensure that the correct inoculations are in fact given when necessary. It is apparent that at school entry the parent of every child should be requested to produce evidence such as an infant welfare centre record of the child's immunization status. Such a procedure could provide a basis for uniform protection against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tetanus.

School Immunization.

During 1966 consideration was given to what action would be appropriate when school medical records show an incomplete immunization history. There seemed at first sight to be no simple method to follow except to inform the parent in general terms and if many children were involved to bring the matter to the notice of the council concerned.

To supplement the above municipal inspectors were encouraged to distribute immunization consent cards as early as practicable after the opening of the school year.

Another approach was to request the district health officers to take every opportunity to assist in providing inoculations in selected municipalities where it was believed that immunization was likely to be deficient.

RINGWORM.

A report of an outbreak of ringworm among children in Cobram was brought to notice by the medical officer of health. An epidemiological investigation was carried out by officers of the Department in collaboration with the District Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture.

The infecting organism was *Microsporum canis* which responded well to antibiotic (griseofulvin) therapy. Investigations revealed a high incidence of ringworm in domestic dogs and to a lesser degree cats. Direct contact with animals may have been responsible for some cases. However, person to person spread was also probable.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

During this period 2,604 males and 814 females (total 3,418) attended the Government Clinic. Included in this were 139 men and 90 women who came for a blood test to conform with American visa requirements.

The number of cases of gonorrhoea and syphilis found amongst this group of 3,418 persons is as follows, with comparative figures for previous years :—

Year.	Total Patients.	Gonorrhoea.			Syphilis.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1965-66	3,418	862	221	1,083	51	3	54
1964-65	3,080	702	207	909	27	2	29
1963-64	3,021	663	253	916	32	1	33

Examination of these figures shows some increase in the number of patients seeking investigation, yet the attack rate per head of population does not show any increase. A statistical survey carried out by the Department in 1965 disclosed that there had not been any significant increase in venereal disease in the 0-19 years age group over the years 1960-64 inclusive.

The following table shows the total number of reported cases for both diseases from all sources for the year :—

Notification of Venereal Disease.

Source of Notification.	Gonorrhoea.			Syphilis.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Government Clinic	862	221	1,083	51	3	54
Others—						
Metropolitan	377	117	494	13	11	24
Country	51	3	54	2	1	3
Totals	1,290	341	1,631	66	15	81

A comparative study with figures for the last three years shows no significant change : thus, the incidence of venereal disease in Victoria seems fairly static compared with other States where the increasing incidence is apparently causing some concern.

Commencing on 1st January, 1966, each female patient as part of her routine examination, now has a cervical smear taken for examination by the Victorian Cytology Service at the Prince Henry's Hospital. A separate register records the findings of the examination and the results could be of value when a large enough sample has been evaluated.

EXOTIC DISEASES HOSPITAL, FAIRFIELD.

The number of in-patients suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy) remains at eight ; one male of Maltese origin was admitted, one female was discharged.

Seven former patients are receiving drug treatment and routine examinations as out-patients.

The standard of medical and nursing care is of a high order and facilities are available for occupational and recreational pursuits.

Additions to the existing buildings should be completed before the end of 1966 which will facilitate the isolation of other exotic diseases such as smallpox should the contingency arise.

IMMUNIZATION MATERIAL ISSUED TO MUNICIPALITIES 1964-65 AND 1965-66.

Material.	Number of Doses.	
	1964-65.	1965-66.
Salk Vaccine	602,469	377,678
Triple Antigen Vaccine	230,831	239,020
C.D.T. Vaccine	86,018	106,170
Tet. Tox. (A.P.A.) Vaccine	28,022	37,937
Tet. Tox. (B.P.) Vaccine	315	2,500
Smallpox Vaccine	25,480	24,446
Dip. Tox. (Dil.) Vaccine	8,430	3,900
Schick Test Toxin Vaccine	7,505	790
Dip. Proph. (P.T.A.P.) Vaccine	1,618	1,236
c.c.'s Dip. Proph. (P.T.A.P.) Dil. Vaccine	48	8
Per. Proph. (H.A.P.A.)	23	22

Protection against Poliomyelitis with Salk vaccine was retarded by intermittent supplies. The cover provided by the 377,678 doses issued seems barely sufficient to meet requirements for infants.

Triple antigen used in infants for immunization against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough has been made available in amounts comparable with previous years. On the other hand the boost dose of the combined diphtheria-tetanus toxoids, C.D.T., is still not used in sufficient quantity.

More attention has been given to immunization against tetanus alone through the use of larger quantities of the plain tetanus toxoid in municipalities where there has been special reason to provide an inoculation campaign rather than routine injections.

Smallpox vaccination has been used in the small amounts comparable with previous years.

It is of interest to note that the old practice of using Schick test toxin to detect immunity against diphtheria has almost been dropped. Only 790 doses were issued during 1965-66.

MICROBIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSTIC UNIT.

Perhaps the most notable event for the unit in 1965 was the long awaited move to the new School of Microbiology. Some 3,000 sq. feet of this building has been used to provide an excellent suite of laboratories for the Diagnostic Unit. While the physical space of the laboratory has been increased, unfortunately it has been impracticable to expand the scope of the services provided by the unit to any appreciable extent. This is contingent upon both an increase in senior personnel and greater financial support becoming available.

Although the number of examinations carried out this year was no greater than in 1964 (see accompanying Tables), the work load has increased considerably, principally as a result of an increase in certain types of specimens which involve lengthy and at times complicated microbiological procedures. In addition, the development of a number of research projects designed to improve current diagnostic procedures or epidemiological studies cannot be adequately reflected in a simple statement of examinations.

These projects, carried out by senior staff of the unit, are considered essential if services are to be improved or expanded. The most noteworthy aspects of the year's work are as follows :—

1. *Enteric Infections.*

Typhoid fever, though still evident in this community, remained quiescent during 1965. Cultures from four new cases isolated in Victoria were examined and it was interesting to find two new phage types (D7 and 36) among them. Faeces, urine and serum examinations on all known typhoid carriers in Victoria were also carried out ; though most retained serological titres only eight of these persons were found to be excreting *Sal. typhi*. The difficulty of correlating the typhoid excretion with serological reactions, particularly in immunized individuals, was again strikingly obvious.

Three hundred and forty-five *Salmonella* strains were isolated in Victoria during this year ; over 60 per cent. were *Sal. typhi-murium* while *Sal. virchow*, first seen in 1964 was again the second most common organism, though late in the year it apparently disappeared. Four species of *Salmonella* not previously seen in Victoria were also isolated ; the origin of these strains is unknown. The possibility of introducing phage typing of *Sal. typhi-murium* strains for purposes of epidemiological study has been investigated ; unfortunately, less than 20 per cent. of Australian strains are susceptible to the available phage and it will be necessary to develop our own phages before the method becomes practical.

Over 80 *Shigella* strains were isolated, the majority from inmates of the Kew Children's Cottages. Most of these strains, in contrast to those isolated from patients in the general community were almost completely resistant to antibiotics. Colicine typing of *Sh. sonnei* has also been introduced ; however, the majority of our strains are not susceptible to known colicines and further work is necessary before this becomes a practicable method.

2. Serological Surveys in Abattoir Workers.

In collaboration with the departmental Epidemiologist, a further series of serum samples were obtained from abattoir workers ; these were examined for Brucella and Leptospira agglutinins. Approximately 18 per cent. of these persons possessed significant Brucella titres ; it was interesting to find that several of these people had, some years previously, been injected with Brucellin skin test antigen. This antigen undoubtedly may confuse the interpretation of serological results and for this reason its use should be restricted as far as possible. No evidence of Leptospira infection was obtained in this group of people.

3. Food and Water Microbiology.

In collaboration with the department's medical officers a large number of food samples, particularly prepared sea foods, have been examined. Analysis of the total viable organisms in these samples has proved useful in assessing problems arising from the processing of these foods. Potential food-poisoning organisms (e.g., *Clostridium welchii*) were occasionally isolated from these foods. New methods for the examination of food specimens are currently being investigated.

Metropolitan and rural water supplies have been examined throughout the year. Apart from a few instances no substantial reduction in the suitability of these water supplies has been detected.

4. Venereal Infections

Several new methods designed to improve the diagnosis of gonorrhoeal infections have been examined with the assistance of officers of the Government Venereal Diseases Clinic. Apart from assessing the relative value of a variety of media for isolation of the organism, the possibility of introducing fluorescent antibody techniques for microscopic examination of smears is being investigated. In addition, a study of the organisms commonly found in cases of non-specific urethritis has been undertaken. This work is to continue, with particular emphasis on isolation of Mycoplasma (PPLO) and their possible aetiology in this type of infection.

MICROBIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSTIC UNIT

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

A Comparison of Numbers for the Years, 1963-65.

Examination.	1963.	1964.	1965.
1. Upper Respiratory Tract Infections—			
(a) Diphtheria (culture)	3,408	3,601	2,451
(b) B haemolytic Streptococci			
(i) Cultures	3,622	4,302	3,357
(ii) Groupings	440	706	712
(iii) Anti-Streptolysin Titre Tests	794	947	1,073
(c) Vincent's organisms	7	6	6
2. Enteric Infections (Salmonella and Shigella)—			
(i) Cultures	2,843	2,579	2,946
(ii) Identifications	618	702	735
(iii) Widal Agglutinations	609	348	529
3. Serological Investigations—			
(a) Brucella	1,218	916	1,128
(b) Glandular Fever	236	181	154
(c) Leptospirosis	194	208	123
(d) Typhus Fever	50	44	167
(e) Miscellaneous	91	32	14
4. N. gonorrhoeae and related infections—			
(a) N. gonorrhoeae—			
(i) Smear	617	593	591
(ii) Culture	2,549	2,464	2,725
(b) Trichomonas and Monilia	13	16	31
5. General Bacteriological Examinations including endogenous infections, food poisoning out-breaks, microbiological examination of food, milk, &c.—			
(i) Cultures	970	790	831
(ii) Drug Sensitivities	3,958	5,355	6,184
6. Water Examinations	327	305	336
7. Medical Mycology (Microscopic and Cultures)	98	116	106
Totals	22,662	24,211	24,199

CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

During the year, 2,079 samples were examined, this number being a slight increase on that of the previous year. Samples submitted under the Health Act, totalling 1,863, exhibited a marked improvement in quality, only 6 per cent. failing to comply with statutory requirements, as compared with 13 per cent. in 1964-65 and 9 per cent. in 1963-64.

The laboratory now has a full complement of staff. Accommodation, however, continues to be a problem. A room previously used for water analysis has now become available for pesticide work, but the difficulties due to restricted accommodation will not be overcome until the new chemical laboratories are completed. It is anticipated that the new Health Laboratory will be available for use by the end of 1967.

For some years, the laboratory has been short of various types of equipment. New apparatus is gradually being obtained, and it is hoped that when the new laboratory is occupied, funds will be available to allow of the purchase of sufficient equipment to enable full advantage of the increased accommodation to be taken.

In addition to routine food samples, a wide variety of materials of public health significance has been examined, and several special investigations have been made. A considerable amount of time also has been spent by senior members of the staff in answering technical inquiries from firms and private individuals.

Important features of the year's work are detailed below.

Meat and Meat Products

—	Number submitted.	Number not complying.	Percentage not complying in—		
			1965-66.	1964-65.	1963-64.
Meat—					
Fresh	232	8	4	11	6
Chopped	213	21	10	13	14
Manufactured	56	3	5	2	3
Canned	1	Nil	0	0	25
Sausages and Sausage Meat	340	48	14	18	11
Tripe	23	3	13	57	55
Meat Pies	26	1	4	24	29

The over-all situation is good and a dramatic reduction in contraventions regarding fresh meat, tripe and meat pies has taken place. Analysis of several unsatisfactory meat pie samples from the Victorian Railways' catering section has resulted in an increase in meat content of this item.

Dairy Products (1964-65 figures in parenthesis).

—	Number submitted.	Number not complying with regulations.
Milk—Fresh	306 (289)	6 (Nil)
Cream	10 (11)	2 (Nil)
Butter	19 (31)	2 (1)
Cheese	18 (14)	2 (Nil)
Ice Cream	18 (6)	Nil (Nil)

The cream and cheese contraventions involved deficiency in fat, while the two butters mentioned contained excess water. The unsatisfactory milk samples showed deficiencies in fat and non-fatty solids, while one contained 16 per cent. of added water. A sample of flavoured milk was deficient in butter fat.

Pesticide Residues.

The analytical programme has been continued throughout the year, and a wide range of fresh fruits and vegetables has now been examined. Results showed that all residues were below

statutory limits except in the case of one sample of apples containing excess arsenic. It is hoped to proceed to a systematic examination for organochlorine compounds in the near future. The following determinations were made during the year :—

	Number of Samples.	Pesticide Residue.
Apples	20	Arsenic
Apples	7	Organophosphorus compounds
Strawberries	12	" "
Peaches	4	" "
Nectarines	4	" "
Cherries	6	" "
Loganberries	1	" "
Tomatoes	16	" "
Tomatoes	6	Arsenic
Brussels Sprouts	8	Organophosphorus compounds
Lettuce	6	" "
Celery	10	" "
Celery	4	Copper
Fish (redfin)	1	Organophosphorus compounds, organo-chlorine compounds, and arsenic

An investigation of the rate at which the concentrations of several organophosphorus pesticides decreased on lettuces after spraying with those compounds under recommended conditions was also carried out. It was found that levels fell to zero within a week in the case of phosdrin, and below statutory limits after two weeks subsequent to spraying with rogor. Similar work on metasystox residues is proceeding.

Foreign Substances in Food.

The discovery of a wide range of foreign materials in various foods by members of the public continues, and the following cases of adulteration were confirmed in the laboratory.

Food.	Contaminating Material.
Soft Drink	Solidified drying oil (4 samples)
"	Mould (2 samples)
"	Sand
"	Yeast
"	Cement
"	Wheat Starch
"	Off flavour from rubber washer (3 samples)
"	" " " naphtha-type solvent
"	" " " petroleum
Milk	Vegetable matter
Meat Pie	Bovine hair
Stuffed Olives	Mould spores and vegetable fibres
Plum Pudding	Gypsum
Bread	Mouse faeces
"	Vegetable and mineral matter

During 1966, an off-flavour developed in local beer which was suspected to be due to a filter aid used in Melbourne breweries. The trouble resulted from a minute trace of an aromatic compound. The affected beer was removed from the market.

Lead in Toys, &c.

A high concentration of lead (2,500 p.p.m.) was found in a hollow plastic doll intended for holding confectionery, and a metal cruet set also contained this metal. An unusual incident occurred due to the heating of a coloured pyrex casserole in a closed electric frypan, resulting in the deposition on the surface of the glass of metallic lead from the ceramic glaze used.

Fluoride Survey.

Further determinations on various country water supplies were carried out with the object of detecting any seasonal variation. It was found that figures were reasonably static throughout the year. Highest figures were obtained at Kaniva, where the fluoride content ranged from 0.5 to 0.8 parts per million. (The recommended level is one part per million.)

Preservatives, Colourings, &c.

Excess sulphur dioxide was detected in wine, vinegar and cordial and 10.8 grains per pound of nitrite was found in beef sausage, the legal limit being one grain per pound.

Smoked fish and maize oil were found to be illegally coloured with coal tar dyes and annatto respectively.

Miscellaneous.

Shipments of imported peanut kernels were shown to have suffered severely from insect attack, and in some cases 100 per cent. of the nuts were affected. Many of the nuts were also mouldy.

Samples of olive oil, flavoured ice, and cream of tartar were below standard, while dripping from a State prison farm proved to be rancid.

Tap water from a country area was found to contain 13 per cent. of sodium nitrite (used in water treatment) due to failure of non-return valve.

Other substances examined included photographic chemicals, headache powder, soluble aspirin and amphetamine capsules. An investigation of teflon-coated frying pans is currently being undertaken.

FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

The Food Standards Committee held four meetings during the past year, the major business under discussion being a number of proposed draft standards recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council, on the advice of the Commonwealth Food Standards Committee, designed for uniform adoption throughout the various States. Steady progress is being made in this endeavour to achieve a uniform code of food standards throughout the Commonwealth.

Apart from a considerable number of amendments to existing drafts the following new uniform drafts were adopted :—

- Butter and Butter Products ;
- Toys in Food Packages ;
- Jams and Conserves ;
- Cream and Cream Products.

Also during the year, several minor amendments to the Bread Industry Act were recommended to the Minister for Labour and Industry. These were in relation to the ash content of bread.

PROPRIETARY MEDICINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

During the past twelve months 656 applications for registration of preparations as proprietary medicines have been received by the Department. This brings the number of applications received since the inception of the scheme to 15,450 and the number which have been accepted for registration to 12,680.

Two supplementary registers were published during the year containing a total of 700 products and 944 deletions were made from the register over the same period.

During the past year 42 meetings of the committee have been held.

POISONS DIVISION.

The Division continued its work of supervision over labelling of poisons, licensing of manufacturers and wholesalers, and liaison with the Customs Department and the Drug Bureau of the Police Department.

During the year there was an increase in the number of persons who called on the Division to assist in the disposal of unwanted poisons. As a service to the public, small quantities of such poisons are collected by the Division and dumped at sea beyond the continental shelf by arrangement with the Department of Shipping and Transport. There also appeared to be an increase in the number of cases involving excessive consumption of drugs of addiction or restricted substances. Four new sets of regulations were introduced during the year :—

- (1) Regulations prohibiting the manufacture and use of three drugs, i.e., Amidopyrine, Methyl Cinchophen and Allylisopropylacetylurea. This action was taken on the recommendation of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee, which considered that these drugs were unsafe for general use.
- (2) Regulations controlling the use of Cyanide for all purposes other than medical or industrial use, the latter being already controlled by existing legislation.

- (3) Regulations requiring pharmaceutical chemists to label certain dispensed medicines with the name of the active ingredient. As this was a marked departure from long established tradition, the requirements were limited to preparations dispensed by count (i.e., tablets, &c.) when they contain a poison within the meaning of the Poisons Act. Provision was included to allow the prescriber to direct that the name of the active ingredients be omitted in cases where he considered it was inadvisable for the patients to be aware of the contents of the medication.
- (4) Regulations controlling drugs of addiction and restricted substances. These regulations were the result of more than two years consideration by a special Sub-committee which met on nine occasions. The new regulations replace all the old requirements and incorporate a number of new provisions. It is hoped that the regulations will either establish or maintain standards that will be valid for many years to come.

During the year 59 amendments were made to the Schedules to the Act. A fully revised set of Schedules was issued for the convenience of the drug trade and others.

Arsenic.

Arsenic has been in common use over the years for weed control but because it was involved in a number of cases of poisoning, its sale has been restricted. It can now be obtained only if the purchaser has a permit.

Arsenical sheep dips, &c., were exempted from the permit system as it was considered necessary for these products to be readily available.

POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE.

During the year 2,357 inquiries were received during office hours. This represents an average of 9·5 calls per day and an increase of 4·9 per cent. over the total for 1964. There were several occasions when 16 to 18 calls per day were recorded but the busiest day during 1965 was the 27th September when 19 calls were received covering 22 topics.

The highest monthly total, since the inception of the Centre, occurred in March when 270 calls were recorded, giving a peak average of 12·3 calls per working day. Both these records still stand.

The impression persists that the number of calls received is related to the day temperature though not in a linear fashion. It seems more accidental poisonings in children occur on days which are warm to moderately hot. It is perhaps not without significance that the daily average for September, 1965, the second warmest September on record, was almost 30 per cent. greater than the corresponding figure for September, 1964.

Seven hundred and forty-seven inquiries from doctors were recorded, including 21 from interstate and 160 from other localities outside Melbourne. A further 462 inquiries came from nursing sisters, pharmacists and others associated with the medical profession, so that "professional calls" amounted to 51·3 per cent. of the total for the year, compared with 48·7 per cent. during 1964.

The total of 1,209 professional inquiries, compared with 1,094 during 1964, indicates an increase of 10·5 per cent. It was also gratifying to see a decrease in the number of calls from the general public though the decrease was only a little less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Nineteen Sixty-six brought the first Conference on Poisoning, held in Canberra on 28th April. Representatives of all States and Territories and New Zealand were present. Experience gained at the Centre since it began to function in 1962 was of considerable value to the conference which was regarded as highly successful.

HOME HELP SERVICES.

There has been little change in the amount of home help given in the last twelve months as services are now established right throughout the metropolitan area and in most of the provincial cities, towns and more heavily populated shires throughout the State.

The total number of municipalities now granted subsidies to operate services is 153 and of these 129 are at present functioning.

During the first six months of the year a total of 8,976 householders were assisted of whom 54 per cent. were mothers with young children, 33 per cent. were elderly and the remaining 13 per cent. consisted of miscellaneous cases many of whom are chronic invalids such as sufferers from multiple sclerosis and paralysis who require assistance for a much longer term.

To ensure that help beyond three weeks for all cases other than the aged is only given in exceptional circumstances, details of cases assisted beyond the normal three weeks period are obtained and when the extension is for more than a few weeks, the case is investigated by the Department.

Details regarding the subsidized home help services are as follows :—

Total number of councils granted subsidies to operate home help services ..	153
Number of services operating	129
Total number of householders assisted during the first six months of the year	8,976

These are as follows :—

Mothers with young families	4,913
Elderly	2,988
Other cases	1,075

A further 155 householders applied to councils operating services for assistance but insufficient help was available to meet their need. As in the last report the figure is below the number not assisted last year indicating that councils are finding it easier to obtain staff.

Home Helps engaged :—

Full time	313
Part time	556
Hourly	617
	—1,486

The total cost to the Government for the twelve months period :—

Expenditure ..	\$683,965.
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At the present ceiling salary rates for home helps the estimated cost of the service for the 1966–67 financial year is \$720,000.

ELDERLY CITIZENS CLUBS.

During the year there was further expansion in activity. Eleven clubs received capital grants, seven of these for the establishment of clubrooms and four towards the cost of equipment for use in temporary premises. Thirteen clubs received additional capital grants towards the cost of extensions and alterations to established clubrooms and a further two clubs received additional grants for more furniture and equipment. As well as these, fifteen clubs received maintenance subsidies and a further five clubs received an increase in the amount of maintenance subsidy.

The subsidies granted during the period were as follows :—

Capital Grants (26)—

For new clubs	11
Additional capital grants	15

Maintenance Subsidies (6)—

Additional maintenance subsidies	6 (includes 2 increases for Horsham)
For new clubs	7
For clubs already granted a capital subsidy	8

Total Number of Clubs now Granted Subsidies (136)—

Capital and/or maintenance subsidies	136
Capital and maintenance subsidies	91
Capital subsidy only	34
Maintenance subsidy only	11
Capital subsidies approved	125
Maintenance subsidies approved	102

					\$
The Capital expended for the twelve months period	..	..	..	74,499	
Maintenance expenditure for twelve months period	..	..	..	93,917	
					<hr/>
Total Government expenditure for twelve months period	..	..	..	168,416	
Capital commitments at end of year	..	..	..	131,282	

During the last twelve months eight clubs have moved into premises established by their councils for the exclusive use of the elderly. There are another five elderly citizens clubrooms under construction which will be completed shortly. The total number of clubs now operating in premises built or remodelled for the exclusive use of the elderly is 109.

A very pleasing feature of elderly citizens clubs is the growth of meal and chiropody services. There are now 56 clubs in 43 municipalities providing hot meal services. Interest in handicraft is continuing to grow, due mainly to the encouragement given by the Old Peoples Welfare Council of Victoria in this regard.

The present position regarding the health giving services conducted at clubs is as follows :—

Meal Services—

Clubs providing hot meals	56
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Average number of meals provided weekly—

9,578	{	at club	4,664
		on wheels	4,914

Clubs serving meals at club and conducting meals-on-wheels	..	21
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Clubs providing meals at clubrooms only	..	7
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Clubs providing meals-on-wheels only	..	28
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Chiropody Services—

Clubs conducting chiropody services	..	34
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Average number of persons treated per month	..	759
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Handicraft Classes—

Clubs conducting handicraft classes	..	19
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Advice received from elderly citizens clubs indicate that there are now over 22,500 elderly persons members of the clubs.

General.

A great number of councils as well as many voluntary organizations have sought information on numerous community welfare services connected with the home help service and elderly citizens clubs.

Representatives from a number of statutory bodies and voluntary organizations in other States and from overseas have sought advice as to how the Victorian Government subsidized schemes operate, and the best way to set them up. Other community welfare matters referred to this Department from various sources have been commented on. In addition all the routine work, connected with existing services, has demanded increased attention.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE DIVISION.

Medical Examination of Patients.

During the year 129 patients were examined medically for evidence of excessive exposure to various substances.

They were categorized as follows :—

	Suspected Exposure.	Established poison- ing Disease or Disability.
Ammonia	1	0
Ammonia Nitrate	1	0
Arsenic	3	0
Calcium Chloride	1	0
Carbon Monoxide	2	0
Carbon Tetrachloride	3	1
Chloropicrin	1	0
Copper	1	0
Dusts (Industrial)	59	37
Hydrofluoric Acid	2	0
Lead	25	2
Methyl Chloride	1	0
Nitrous Fumes	6	0
Pesticides	10	2
Phosphorus	1	0
Sodium Flouroacetate	1	0
Solvents	8	2
Thallium	1	0
Weedicides	2	0
	129	44

The 37 patients examined and found to be suffering from a pneumoconiosis were further subclassified as follows :—

Asbestosis	12
Siderosis	1
Silicosis	23
Talcosis	1

Scientific Activities.

The scientific staff has continued to meet the ever-increasing demands from industry for scientific assessment and correction of various hazards.

Unfortunately, the resignation of two experienced members of the scientific staff during the year created a serious staff shortage and has placed a heavy burden on the remaining officers. This has restricted research and investigational projects to a minimum.

However, investigations of general application and interest were carried out with respect to the ventilation problem associated with coastal vessels of the roll-on, roll-off type ; also investigations were carried out with respect to the carbon monoxide hazard related to the burning of solid fuel in a poorly ventilated room without a proper fireplace.

In view of recently published articles on the suspected correlation between mesothelioma and exposure to asbestos fibres, a study of the techniques related to the assessment of asbestos-exposure has been made, and a survey of the asbestos industry has been commenced.

On account of the continuing introduction of chemicals in most sections of industry, the scientific staff is constantly being faced with new and complex problems. In this regard, new methods for the determination of various substances, including ozone, nitro-propane, nitro-glycerine and ethylene glycol dinitrate have been introduced.

Lead

During the year 4,180 medical reports were received under the Lead Workers (Medical Examinations) Regulations.

Fifty-eight workers were certified as lead poisoned by the examining medical officer. In addition, 198 lead workers attended the Division's laboratories for further medical and/or scientific tests to evaluate their lead exposure.

The following tests were performed :—

- 3,928 Stipple Cell Counts
- 349 Coproporphyrin determinations
- 176 Urinary lead determinations
- 1 Faecal lead
- 21 Blood leads
- 27 Full blood counts.

In addition to these biological tests, 31 determinations of lead-in-air were carried out on air samples taken from factories.

Radiation.

The number of licences issued to various sections of the community with respect to the possession and use of irradiating apparatus and radio-active substances under the Irradiating Apparatus and Radio-Active Substances Regulations for the year was as follows :—

Medical	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	325
Dental	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	315
Industrial	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
Educational and Research		..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Government Bodies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Chiropractors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
								<hr/> 923

The Commonwealth X-ray and Radium Laboratories, now regularly provides the Division with film badge reports from some 180 installations where workers are exposed to ionizing radiation.

Special approval was granted on eight occasions for the transport and/or use of sources in excess of two curies. These included sources used in new radiation applications, namely in scientific instruments for mineral exploration of oil wells and mines, and for the determination of the sulphur content in refinery oils.

The use of radiation in industry continues to increase ; the number of licencees rose from 113 to 136, an increase of about 20 per cent.

The demand for gamma-radiography in large industrial construction works continues to increase. Two contract-radiography firms have now been granted permission to use large-activity sources in special remote control equipment.

The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, through its Radiation Advisory Service, has successfully performed three tests involving the use of radio-active tracers for industrial purposes. Such tests would be virtually impossible by conventional methods.

A number of radiation incidents involving notifiable doses, was investigated and appropriate recommendations made. One incident was related to the use of a sealed radio-active source to indicate the position of a pipe-line scraper in a long underground pipe-line. At the source-recovery stage, the capsule was unexpectedly and inadvertently unscrewed and the operator received a notifiable dose when he re-screwed the capsule together. None of these doses, however, resulted in any somatic damage to the individual and the film badge records indicate that the doses received by radiation workers are well within the permissible level.

Benzene and Other Solvents.

At its meeting on the 29th March, 1966, the Commission approved and recommended to the Honorable the Minister, draft Benzene Regulations 1966. These regulations are mainly a consolidation of the present regulations containing a few minor amendments, most important of which is a requirement for a warning label on all containers of benzene being sold. The present Regulations do not require the warning label on containers holding six fluid ounces or less.

One organization was found to be selling a product containing benzene without the warning label on the containers as prescribed by the Regulations. On being brought to notice, the omission was promptly rectified.

Six bulk samples of industrial solvents were analysed for benzene content and in no case was this in excess of 5 per cent.

Inspections throughout the year did not reveal any hazardous situation from the use of benzene in industry and no cases of benzene poisoning were brought to notice.

One quite severe case of carbon tetrachloride poisoning occurred following the occasional use of this substance as a solvent in industry. In view of the ready availability of less toxic substitutes, it is felt that there is probably little or no real need for the use of this solvent in industry and endeavours are being made to investigate closely all industrial use of this substance.

Following publicity which referred to cases of poisoning resulting from the household use of carbon tetrachloride in the United States of America, attention was directed to the use of this substance in households here. An investigation in June, 1966, failed to reveal any product on sale here for household use which contained carbon tetrachloride ; but one such product had just been withdrawn from the market.

Excessive concentrations of solvents other than the above-mentioned were found in eight factories and in each case the concentrations were reduced to acceptable limits by improved ventilation.

The following list gives for the year the total number of atmospheric determinations made for the various solvent vapours :

Acetone	..	..	..	2	2 Nitropropane	..	..	5
Benzene	..	..	..	3	Perchloroethylene	..	..	4
Butylacetate	..	..	..	3	Solvent mixtures	..	..	12
Carbon tetrachloride	..	..	..	3	Toluene	..	..	2
Ethyl acetate	..	..	..	8	Trichloroethylene	..	..	15
Methyl alcohol	..	..	..	2	Trichloroethane	..	..	2
Methyl ethyl ketone	..	..	..	5	Kylene	..	..	2
Methyl Iso butyl ketone	..	..	..	2				

X-ray Survey for Pneumoconiosis.

One hundred and ten chest X-rays were arranged by this Division using large 17-in. x 14-in. films in search for pneumoconiosis and nineteen films werereferred by the Central Chest Clinic.

These films were categorized as follows :—

X-ray within normal limits	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Silicosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Asbestosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Siderosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Talcosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Emphysema and/or other pathology	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Pesticides—Organo-Phosphorus Compounds.

Sixty-three people were given blood cholinesterase tests involving 79 analytical determinations. Three cases of organic phosphate poisoning were detected, two of occupational origin.

No mass survey was conducted this year.

Mercury.

The requests for mercury estimations in urine continued to increase this year. Sixty-one people were tested for the possibility of increased mercury absorption involving 73 analytical determinations, 68 in urine, two in blood and three in gastric aspirate. No cases of industrial mercury poisoning were detected.

Two mercury-in-air determinations were carried out using a Bechmann mercury vapour detector.

Arsenic.

Eight people were tested for suspected arsenical poisoning. This involved twelve analytical determinations, ten on urine and two on hair.

Four cases of poisoning were detected, not occupational in origin.

Other Atmospheric Contaminants.

An investigation which involved the analysis of 22 atmospheric samples for zinc oxide and iron oxide was made into the possible health hazard from the welding and flame-cutting of zinc-epoxy primed steel. The tests revealed that, in this particular application, there would be no hazard if the process was carried out in a well-ventilated area.

An investigation was made to compare the possible health hazard arising from the use of a recently introduced core-setting process in foundries using an alkyd resin cross-linked with diphenylmethane diisocyanate with the hazard arising from an old process using a furane resin polymerization product. Tests revealed that the newer process compared favourably with the older.

The following list gives the total number of analyses of atmospheric samples for gases or vapours other than solvent vapours :—

Carbon monoxide	..	..	15	Oil mist	..	..	..	2
Chlorine dioxide	..	..	2	Phenol	..	..	..	1
Chromic acid mist	..	..	3	Styrene monomer	..	..	..	2
Diphenylmethane diisocyanate	..	..	5	Sulphur dioxide	..	..	..	3
Ferric oxide	..	..	13	Tin	..	..	..	2
Formaldehyde	..	..	6	Toluene diisocyanate	..	..	..	9
Maleic anhydride	..	..	2	Zinc oxide	..	..	..	13
Nitrogen dioxide	..	..	4					

ENGINEERING DIVISION.

Sewerage.

The only sewerage works completed during the year were for the township of Lang Lang. Two new sewerage authorities, namely Alexandra and Nathalia, were constituted. Inspections of sites for treatment works for the townships of Apollo Bay, Beaufort and Buninyong were made and preliminary reports for the schemes were accepted by the Commission and advice forwarded to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in connexion with the formation of the authorities. In regard to a proposal already accepted by the Commission for Torquay the site for treatment of the sewage was subject to reconsideration and an area more remote from the built-up area of Torquay was selected and approved. Similarly, in connexion with the Orbost scheme which had provided for discharge of raw sewage at a point on the Ninety Mile Beach, reconsideration of the scheme resulted in a treatment works providing for irrigation of the effluent at a site nearer Orbost. This new proposal was accepted by the Commission.

The sewerage scheme for Leongatha, which will include the disposal of waste liquids from Korumburra and Leongatha Milk Factories, was approved by the Commission some time ago but a new proposal has been made changing the point of discharge into the ocean. This is acceptable to the Commission.

A total of 77 inspections of provincial sewerage treatment plants generally involving collection of samples for analyses was carried out during the year.

Septic Tank Installations.

The total number of plans examined in connexion with new septic tank installations proposed to be installed by municipal councils or erected as part of Public Buildings was 226 and for extensions to such systems was six. Proposals numbering eighteen were examined for septic tank systems serving industrial premises and requiring the approval of the municipal councils and recommendations were forwarded in connexion with these schemes.

Proposals for new mass septic tank schemes serving townships numbered seven. These included the townships of Cowwarr, Toongabbie, Newry, Tinambra, Poowong, Nyora and Herne's Oak.

A new development in connexion with sewerage services for residential estates in the outer suburban area of Melbourne beyond the present limits of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works system was the use of a package treatment plant in which all units of the plant are factory constructed and simply built into position on the site. The purification process involved in this method is the activated sludge process and effluents complying with the provisions of the Stream Pollution Regulations are achieved.

Offensive Trades and Garbage Depots.

Approval was granted for the establishment of 27 municipal garbage depots for which the procedure required by the Health Act produced no objections.

Plans were examined for three new abattoir buildings and for extensions to 31 existing abattoirs

Public Buildings.

Approval of plans and specifications of Public Buildings numbered 1,076, comprising 441 new buildings and 635 in respect of additions to existing buildings. Included in this figure are 102 new pre-school, child minding and infant welfare centres and 47 additions to existing centres. In addition, plans and specifications were approved for six new picture theatres.

Day inspections of public buildings numbered 7,639 and during public occupation 713. In the side-show category the number of new Certificates of Safety issued was 66 and renewal or transfer of Certificates of Safety 211.

During the year closing orders were issued by the Commission on the Mechanics Hall, Electra-street, Williamstown, the Presbyterian Church, Sandford and St. Luke's Church of England, Wodonga, due to their dangerous condition from structural instability.

As a result of an accident to spectators during the running of a motor racing fixture at Sandown Park track the Commission considered reports and made an inspection of the area of the track involved. Subsequently, the Commission required additional safety measures to be carried out.

Swimming Pools.

Forty-three inspections of swimming pools incorporating re-circulation and chlorination were made during the year ; the greater number of pools were municipally owned. Regulations providing for the cleansing and purification of water in artificial swimming pools are being prepared and will be considered by the Commission in the near future.

Water Supply.

The number of samples of water supplies collected for bacteriological analyses at the Microbiological Diagnostic Laboratory numbered 84, and there were 77 inspections of water treatment plants providing for chlorination of the supply. Advice was tendered to operators on chlorination plant and dosage procedure.

Stream Pollution.

Approval for disposal of trade wastes from new industries discharging to streams pursuant to the provisions of Section 82 of the Health Act numbered eleven. Inspections of complete systems numbered nine.

Air Pollution Control.

Air pollution measurements encompassing dust fall, smoke density and sulphur dioxide concentration have been continued. The number and type of sampling stations in operation being as follows :—

Deposit Gauge Stations—

(measuring dust fall on a monthly basis)

Melbourne Metropolitan Area	..	..	..	..	35
Gippsland	..	..	..	..	15
Geelong Area	..	..	..	..	6
Total	..	..	..	..	56

Smoke Density and Sulphur Dioxide Monitors—

(measuring smoke density and SO₂ concentration on a 24-hour basis)

Melbourne Metropolitan Area	11
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Four hundred and seventy-two inspections were carried out in connexion with complaints, site investigations for new plant and to check on newly-installed plant and equipment. Stack sampling and testing and field instrument maintenance required 24 visits.

The number of examinations of plans and specifications of new plant and equipment was 131 compared with 130 in the previous year.

The problem of controlling the obnoxious odours from meat rendering plant was investigated by officers of the Clean Air Section in conjunction with consulting services of the Melbourne University, and a successful solution to this problem found. The most general method adopted

is removal of the condensible vapours in a surface condenser and treatment of the remaining non-condensibles by absorption on activated carbon. The condensate is combined with other liquid plant effluent, whilst the absorbent garbage is periodically replaced and disposed of as refuse.

Officers of the Clean Air Section attended the 2nd Australian Clean Air Conference held in August, 1965, and submitted papers for discussion at the Conference. The 4th Technical Conference on Clean Air was held in June, 1966, and was attended by representatives from all States and New Zealand—also A.C.T.

GENERAL ITEMS.

Meat Supervision.

The activity of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry in endeavours to increase the export trade in meat has impinged to a considerable extent on the supervision at the Municipal level of abattoirs.

Officers of the Commission have been preoccupied in maintaining the inspection services that are financed by local meat inspection fees, this being in contrast to the export supervision provided without charge by the Department of Primary Industry.

What may be a short term outcome of the above is the present tendency of councils concerned with administration of export abattoirs to seek meat inspection services through the Department of Primary Industry export staff. Although a nominal charge is involved, the advantage is off set by a relief from any loss on local meat inspection services and a simplification in administration.

The above is not really novel in view of long standing arrangements by the Victorian Inland Meat Authority to use Department of Primary Industry Inspectors. It has been found convenient even at the Commission and Council level to accept such a service in Portland and Camperdown. In fact, wherever an abattoir is licensed to export meat, a working arrangement exists to leave it to the Commonwealth Veterinary Officer-in-Charge to arrange meat inspection between export and local inspectors, provided that local inspectors must be available to check and brand all meat diverted to local trade.

No complaints have arisen out of the active co-operation of Commonwealth Officers in the supervision of the large local meat trade, but there is concern felt in general by council inspectors appointed under the Health Act that they will be replaced or absorbed into the Department of Primary Industry. Whereas this possibility exists in theory, there are indications that some innovations in the meat trade will require increased attention on the part of municipal meat inspectors.

For instance, a decreasing proportion of local meat leaves the abattoir or the realm of the wholesale trade in carcass form for retail purposes. Meat is too valuable to waste. As a consequence the word “inedible” is practically meaningless. The terms “unwholesome” and “unfit for human consumption” may well be used for diseased or putrid material but for little else.

Additional attention on the part of council meat inspectors will be required in abattoirs to supervise the breaking down of carcasses for the piece meat trade or small goods manufacture. Innovations in labels and the attachment of appropriate brands are likely to be required to enable identification of broken or piece meats especially when pre-packed. It is possible that council meat inspectors will be needed at boning rooms used for local trade purposes outside abattoirs to check admixtures of imported meats including the buffalo and kangaroo in manufactured meats, &c.

It is also necessary to have expert supervision of the salvage of viscera or so called “inedible” material. This includes the growing tendency on the part of abattoir proprietors to divert to local pet food firms, many thousands of cartons of the export “inedible offal” pack originally introduced for the United Kingdom market.

Arising out of the above there is at present the need to secure the denaturation before removal of such meat or abattoir refuse that is not fit for human consumption and intended for pet food manufacture.

The Commission recommended amendments to the Meat Supervision Regulations to provide for the removal of hides and heads from all animals except pigs before removal from the abattoir and prohibiting the use of caul fats on lamb carcasses.

STOCK DISEASES.

Tuberculosis.

Mention should be made of the remarkable achievement of the Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health in the control of bovine tuberculosis. Condemnations of cattle proven to be diseased with tubercle have declined in less than ten years from an annual figure of 2,266

animals in 1958 to 633 in 1964-65. It seems that the elimination of tuberculosis among dairy cattle is in fact possible. Bovine tuberculosis has not been discovered in humans resident in Victoria in recent years.

Cysticercus Bovis.

During the year there were reports of *cysticercus bovis* in cattle the majority of which had apparently come from drought affected areas of New South Wales and northern Victoria.

In most of these cattle, signs of infestation were remote there being only a few viable cysts identified by the Veterinary Research Institute.

However, these discoveries indicated that the cattle had at sometime grazed on infected pastures and investigations by departmental officers are proceeding.

Shell Fish.

Attention has been directed to the shell fish industry in Victoria. Chief consideration has been given to the basic bacteriological state of the raw product so that it will be possible to evaluate by analysis the safety of the oyster, scallop or crayfish as served to the consumer.

The interim finding is that in general the oyster as consumed in Melbourne has a low bacterial content. Occasional high counts seem to be associated with faulty handling but factors such as dirty shells or premature death of the oyster may be involved.

Scallops are dredged up from mud banks and as a consequence the shells are very dirty. The opening of the shell is an operation that gives rise to soiling of the fish that is not necessarily harmful provided the washing is thorough and the cooking is adequate.

The crayfish trade appears to be satisfactory. However, the handling of broken pieces after cooking provides the opportunity for contamination by humans.

An interim appreciation based on bacteriological results is that high coliform counts in raw or cooked shell fish are an indication of faulty handling. The finding of *C. welchii* in a cooked product especially if associated with staphylococcal organisms requires investigation. It would be reasonable to demand reheating. Fish containing salmonella organisms should be condemned.

WATER SUPPLY.

Metropolitan.

Throughout the year samples of water reticulated in the metropolitan area have been submitted for bacteriological examination. In general the results have been in conformity with World Health Organization standards for unchlorinated supplies from uninhabited catchments.

Unsatisfactory figures were obtained from the Maroondah aqueduct. This water is chlorinated when necessary.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works informed the Commission that it is proposed to replace the Preston-Whittlesea section of the open aqueduct by pipe lines, work on which is expected to commence in the autumn of 1967.

Rural.

Special investigations have been carried out to resolve complaints made concerning the quality of the domestic water supplies in Yarrawonga, Creswick, Sale and certain other areas. It was interesting to note that the chief concern was whether the water was suitable for human consumption and not the quantity available.

Municipal health inspectors in rural areas made representations through their Association for assistance in obtaining information concerning household supplies reticulated by local Water Trusts.

The Commission postponed any decision in the matter pending a full discussion between representatives of water authorities, the Municipal Association and Departmental officers on the factors involved in the reticulation of water for domestic use in Victoria.

School Milk Advisory Committee.

The Commission referred to the committee a request from the Health Inspectors' Association that school milk should be supplied in single service containers.

Subsequently, the Milk Board advised that the question of costs and problems with the disposal of containers at some schools would delay the adoption of such a scheme.

The Commission finally decided that although the introduction of single service containers was considered desirable, it would not favour this measure being made compulsory at the present time.

Rodent Control.

Rat control work on wharves was confined to assistance and advice to the Melbourne Harbor Trust personnel who are now employed permanently on the various wharves and docks. Infestation has been reduced to a low level by the use of permanent baiting stations maintained in buildings and storage areas adjoining shipping berths.

Throughout the State and in the City of Melbourne there have been isolated reports of damage caused by rats. Drainage works in newly developed outer suburban areas and the demolition of old buildings in the centre of Melbourne gave rise to temporary infestation until eradication measures were undertaken.

During the year a number of rats from the Melbourne area were submitted for general bacteriological analysis. No human pathogens were isolated.

Fly Control.

The efforts of the Fly Control Committee during the past year, have been directed towards a consolidation of the progress made in previous years in educating the general public in fly control practices.

The Municipal Association decided to continue with a similar anti-fly campaign to the one initiated last year, and this has been given improved support by councils in the metropolitan area with departmental officers assisting in the scheme in an advisory capacity. The campaign is organized along similar lines to the original pilot survey and programme that was carried out by this Department in the Moorabbin area some years ago, and if it is continued in future years, should play a major role in promoting successful fly control measures in the city and suburbs of Melbourne.

It is considered that there has been a further decrease in the degree of house-fly infestation this year particularly in the metropolitan area, but there has been no improvement at all in regard to the numbers of bush flies which cause as much nuisance to the public as in previous years, resulting in a popular but erroneous conclusion by confusion with the house-fly, that there has been no reduction in the "fly" menace in Victoria this summer. The problem of bush flies has been referred to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization for investigation.

A survey of house-fly breeding in racing stables has been carried out by this Department throughout the year, and results indicate that stricter control of manure disposal at these premises is necessary to reduce nuisance.

There is as yet no solution to the problem of house-fly infestation on those poultry farms employing the method of culture known as the "battery cage system".

Central Cancer Registry.

As in previous years the services of a Departmental Medical Officer have been made available on a part-time basis to assist with the collection and tabulation of data relating to all the cancer patients who attend the major public hospitals in Melbourne.

Cancer Education.

Medical Officers of this Department have assisted the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria during the year by giving cancer education talks throughout the State.

A summary of these is as follows :—

On exfoliative cytology ..	..	..	..	..	..	41
On smoking and lung cancer ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
On general cancer topics ..	..	..	..	..	..	7
						—
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	52
						—

The success of the Council's education programme directed towards women on exfoliative cytology has been shown by the very great increase in the number of examinations of smears being carried out by the State Cytology Centre in the eight months since the Centre opened.

Liquor Inspection.

During the year inspections were made of 539 licensed premises—Hotels (471), Licensed Grocers (56), Sporting Arenas (12).

Opened bottles of spirits tested at the above-mentioned licensed premises were as follows :—

Scotch Whisky	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,103
Australian Whisky	..	..	..	..	..	..	421
Imported Brandy	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Australian Brandy	..	..	..	..	..	..	428
Imported Gin	..	..	..	..	..	..	145
Australian Gin	..	..	..	..	..	..	445
Australian Rum	..	..	..	..	..	..	270
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>2,638</u>

Of these the following were found to be adulterated :—

Whisky (Scotch)	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Gin (Imported)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gin (Australian)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Brandy (Australian)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pimm's No. 1 Cup	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Five licensees were successfully prosecuted for the sale of adulterated liquor and proceedings against two others are pending. Warnings were issued in respect of the remaining ten reports.

Of the 471 hotels inspected a small number were found not to have an approved denaturing substance in the drip-tray as required by the Regulations under the Health Act. Warnings were issued in all cases except one where the licensee had permitted a receptacle to be placed in the drip-tray to collect waste beer and court proceedings are pending.

Civil Defence.

The District Health Officers were not involved in actual State Disaster operations during the year under review. An exercise near Yan Yean in Whittlesea-Eltham district to study bush fire control was attended by the District Health Officer concerned.

Liaison visits were made to the stations of Police Superintendents in the Health Areas.

A civil defence committee of medical officers, inspectors and administrative staff was set up in the General Health Branch. Orders to cover the duties of the Health Department staff during the first three stages of a declared disaster were drawn up and adopted by the Commission.

Folders containing basic detail on the deployment of key personnel are being prepared for distribution to all staff members in order to ensure uniform co-operation at the municipal level with officers and inspectors in the separate State Disaster Areas.

Free Travel for Pensioners and Persons of Similar Limited Means.

The total number of applications for free travel received during the year was 17,276—an increase of 463 over the previous year. Of these 17,044 applications were granted, an increase of 432, and 232 applications were refused.

The expenditure involved in the year 1965-66 was \$73,026, which is an increase of \$3,536 over the total for the previous year. The increase in expenditure was due mainly to the greater number of applications, and, to a lesser extent, the slight rise in fares during the last year.

LEGISLATION.

No legislation affecting the activities of the Commission was passed by Parliament during the year, although several amendments to the Poisons Act Schedules were made by Proclamation of the Governor in Council.

Regulations.

In addition to regulations affecting poison control and food standards referred to earlier in this report, the following regulations were approved :—

Bedding, Upholstery, Second-hand Clothing, &c. (Amendment) Regulations 1965.

These extended the requirements in regard to cleansing and labelling to items placed on hire and provided for the cleansing of used or previously worn clothing prior to being altered or repaired.

Camping Regulations 1965.

These regulations consolidated the 1958 regulations and amendments, and clarified the requirements governing hygiene and the provision of various facilities.

Child Minding Centres (Amendment) Regulations 1965.

These amendments require staff to be present and on duty whenever a centre is open. Requirements as to outdoor play space in centres accommodating children for no more than four hours on any day, and no more often than twice in any week, were modified and schedules of furniture, fittings and equipment were simplified.

Cleanliness (Foods, Drugs and Substances) Amendment Regulations 1965.

This amendment provides for the use in licensed victuallers' premises of a clean glass each time spirits are drawn from an inverted automatic dispenser.

Hairdressers' Shops, Beauty Parlours and Chiropodists' Establishments (Amendment) Regulations 1966.

These regulations prohibit the presence of animals in any portion of these establishments to which customers are admitted, and include ultra-violet irradiation as a permitted method of sterilizing appliances.

Household Insecticides Regulations 1966.

These regulations, which will come into force on 1st January, 1967, provide comprehensive labelling requirements for household insecticides.

Labelling of Hazardous Household Substances Regulations 1965.

These regulations contain labelling requirements for all hazardous household substances other than household insecticides.

Harmful Gases, Vapours, Fumes, Mists, Smokes and Dusts (Amendment) Regulations 1965.

These regulations contain a new schedule of maximum permissible concentrations of certain substances.

PROCLAMATIONS AND ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

The Metropolitan Meat Area was extended to include the whole of the Shire of Whittlesea, and the Bendigo Meat Area to comprise the whole of the City of Bendigo, Borough of Eaglehawk and shires of Marong and Strathfieldsaye.

The offensive trades provisions of the *Health Act 1958* (so far as those provisions are applicable to piggeries) were extended to parts of the Shire of Yarrawonga.

Proclamations were issued extending the provisions of the Health Act relating to animals to all Shires throughout the State, and the eating house provisions to the Shires of Cobram, Croydon and Diamond Valley. The maximum fees permissible for meat inspection were also raised and converted to decimal currency following the introduction of the new monetary system.

An Order in Council was issued providing for the establishment of a garbage depot by the City of Moe within the State Electricity Commission Works Area at Yallourn. An Order was also issued discontinuing further burials at the Loch Ard Cemetery near Port Campbell.

OBITUARY.

The Commission records regret at the deaths during the year of :—

Mr. L. P. Yeatman, former Secretary of the Department of Health, and
Dr. P. Breheny, Medical Supervisor of the Poliomyelitis Division.

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. FARNBACH	}	Members of the Commission.
WALTER SUMMONS		
T. R. FLOOD		
A. S. THOMSON		
H. McLORINAN		
A. K. LINES		
A. C. PITTARD		

A. T. GARDNER, Secretary,

Melbourne, 13th September, 1966.

